CROYDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY:
NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27TH MARCH 2018:

President Richard West opened the meeting at 14.30 hours and welcomed the 15 members present. He also introduced 4 members of **Royal Tonbridge Wells Philatelic Society** who were the speakers at the meeting.

Members of Royal Tonbridge Wells Philatelic Society pictured with Croydon Philatelic Society President Richard West:
From Left to Right: **Colin Evans, Peter O'Keefe, Richard West, Bill Hedley, Steve Clark.**

1. The first presentation was by **Colin Evans** on **the American Civil War.** During the first 8 weeks of the war the Confederates had no capability for providing a postal service and they used Federal stamps. Eventually they approached De La Rue in England who printed 5c stamps but the ship carrying them was captured. They then produced their own stamps using skilled engravers from the North. The Confederates were short of stamps and paper and "adversity envelopes" were on display where the envelope was turned and used again. Other envelopes were made from the Oath of Allegiance and Northern envelopes were used in the South. International Mail was well represented covering the various rates used in the conflict. There was a shortage of coins and engraved postal currency was on view along with buttons used with stamps to make currency.

2. **Steve Clark's** presentation was on **Hitler's History of Art.**
Hitler wanted to be an artist and he went to Vienna where he was rejected by the art colleges. He lived in poverty and lived on the sale of hand painted postcards. After World War I the art gallery known as the Munich Glass House was burnt down. When Hitler came to power the new House

of German Art was built in Munich. Each year a Day of German Art was introduced and in 1936 a series of 800 postcards was issued commemorating this event. No degenerate art was allowed such as Impressionist, Abstract and Jewish but elsewhere an exhibition of degenerative art was attended by 2 million people while the official exhibition only had an attendance of half a million.

3. **Bill Hedley's** display was on **Hungary.**
   At the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century some local postal services were developed to link mountain resorts to the Post Office. This involved letters and postcards plus the issuing of their own postage stamps to fund the venture. Local traders were used to carry the mail between the Post Office and the resorts.

4. **Peter O'Keefe** showed a number of British covers where a variety of "stamps" were used to send the mail through the post. They included stamps from other countries such as Germany, Australia and Ireland, bisects, National Savings Stamps, Postage Dues and Christmas Cracker Labels.

President Richard gave a Vote of Thanks to each of the contributors and Croydon Philatelic members enjoyed viewing the variety of material on show. The meeting closed at 16.30 hours.

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Graham Harker
Honorary Assistant Secretary